

Applicant: Takao Tsuruoka
Application No.: 10/530,085

Amendments to Drawings:

Kindly substitute the drawings as originally filed on November 24, 2008, with the drawings accompanying this Reply.

The changes to the drawings are limited to adding the legend "REPLACEMENT SHEET" to each sheet of drawing of the Sixteen Sheets of Figures 1 through 15.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application contains claims 1-7, 17, 18 and 22.

Telephonic Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of conducting a telephone interview on December 29, 2008, and for the helpful comments provided by the Examiner in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

During the interview, it was pointed out that Applicant contacted Legal Instruments Examiner (hereinafter, "LIE") Sherry A Davis (hereinafter, "LIE Davis") and due to the unavailability of LIE Davis, Applicant contacted Examiner Hernandez to discuss the non-compliant matters.

Objections to the Drawings

Regarding the drawings, Applicant pointed out that the original drawings filed with the application were misplaced by the U.S. Patent Office and Applicant, as a courtesy, submitted another set of the drawings exactly as they were originally submitted, i.e., without any legends whatsoever. Applicant pointed out to Examiner Hernandez that to put a legend "REPLACEMENT SHEET" on each sheet of drawing would be a misnomer since Applicant never submitted "replacement sheets." Examiner Hernandez pointed out that the LIE most likely did not review the Applicants' detailed comments in the REMARKS section of the Reply dated November 24, 2008, regarding the drawings and, as a result required the legend "REPLACEMENT SHEET" on each newly submitted drawing. Although the Examiner agreed that it would appear that placing the legend "REPLACEMENT SHEET" on each sheet of the drawing being submitted would appear to be a misnomer, Examiner Hernandez is of the opinion that if the drawings were again

to be resubmitted without the legend "REPLACEMENT SHEET," the likelihood is that the LIE would overlook detailed comments regarding the original drawings having been misplaced by the U.S. Patent Office and consider Applicant as being non-compliant with the U.S. Patent Office's requirements. The Examiner, therefore, recommended that the drawings be submitted with the legend "REPLACEMENT SHEET" as this would be the easiest way to resolve the non-compliant issue regarding the drawings. As a result, Applicant has submitted a new set of drawings, wherein each sheet includes the legend "REPLACEMENT SHEET".

Responsive to the failure to provide markings in the amended title, Applicant noted that in past experiences, it was always satisfactory to instruct the U.S. Patent Office to "replace or change the title to read:", followed by the new title in quotes.

Examiner Hernandez again pointed out that the LIE, in all likelihood, did not read the Applicant's comments regarding the title and recommended that Applicant request the title to be changed by setting forth the original title and lining through the original title and submitting the new title in underlined fashion.

It is, therefore, submitted that the Response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 C.F.R. §1.121) dated December 19, 2008, in combination with the Amendment submitted November 24, 2008, is now in compliance with the U.S. Patent Office's requirements and early examination and allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

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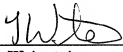
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-7, 17-18 and 22, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures